

**Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held 5 December 2016**

Present: Cllrs R Anscombe (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, M Baker, Miss J Canham, B Lacey, J Leadbetter and Ms S Payne. County Cllr A Stringer and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs A Arnold and T Alston.

2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**

Items 3.1 and 8.3 – Cllr Miss J Canham

Item 8.1 – Cllr R Anscombe

3. **To receive the following reports**

Police – a news update letter from Suffolk Constabulary dated 17 November 2016 was read to the meeting. No questions were raised.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to Minutes) summarising winter gritting requirements for P1 and P11 routes and that grit heaps for the coming months were already awaiting delivery.

The request for a 40mph speed limit on Station Road was progressing slowly due to a current large backlog of work. Cllr Stringer stated he would be chasing progress with Highway Officers. The Chairman recorded thanks to Cllr Stringer for his attendance and updates at parish council meetings over the last year, this was much appreciated and for the locality budget funding granted towards the Wetheringsett defibrillator.

District Councillor – no report

Public Rights of Way – It was reported a plank was missing from the footbridge footway near Wetheringsett Manor and two footpaths (nos. 19 and 52) were in need of reinstatement. Clerk to report to Suffolk CC Public Rights of Way.

4. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr Ben Stanley stated he was in attendance regarding planning application 4350/16, Wetheringsett Manor (agenda item 8.1). Mr Stanley explained the background to the application, this was the last remaining plot available on the site and the plans for a one and a half storey detached dwelling with cartlodge had been drawn up to be sympathetic to the surrounding area and dwellings. In addition Plinth Ltd would shortly be vacating the office space making available a small amount of office space and storage. The architect drawing up the plans would be looking at any drainage concerns and adequate screening for Wetheringsett Lodge provided.

The Chairman thanked Mr Stanley for his attendance and explanation, this would be taken into account when the application was considered by parish council members.

Mr David Withey stated he was in attendance regarding planning application 4615/16, Field View, Wetherup Street – siting of a caravan to permit extended occupancy. Mr Witherley went into the history of the mobile home situated at Field View and explained his objection to the current application on historical grounds and that the existing conditions applying have not been adhered to, ie there are no disabled facilities and the mobile home was not currently being used as holiday accommodation.

The Chairman thanked Mr Witherley for his attendance and comments and stated these would be taken into account when the application was considered by parish council members.

5. **To approve Minutes of the Meeting held 31 October 2016**

The minutes were approved subject to the following amendment at Paragraph 22:

‘Members confirmed that they had no knowledge of ownership or objection to the land being registered in Miss Pulham’s name.’ Proposed Cllr Leadbetter, seconded Cllr Ms Payne and agreed.

6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.

7. **Parish Council vacancies**

Following the Statutory Notice to the Parish of the two vacancies, confirmation had been received from MSDC that there having been no request that the vacancies be filled by election the Parish Council was now free to fill the vacancies by co-option. Two parishioners were in attendance having expressed an interest in joining the council, Mrs Camille Nickson and Mr Charles Harvey.

Cllr Leadbetter proposed that both parishioners were co-opted to join the council, seconded Cllr Miss Canham and unanimously agreed. Having signed the Members Declaration of Office form Mrs Nickson and Mr Harvey joined the meeting.

Cllr Baker confirmed that he would cease to be a member of the council after the meeting due to his work commitments in the New Year. He thanked members for their help during his time as a parish council member and stated that he would be willing to remain as the village defibrillator co-ordinator.

8. To consider planning applications for recommendation to MSDC

1. 4350/16 : Wetheringsett Manor, Church Street – erection of detached one and a half storey dwelling and detached cart lodge. ***(The Vice Chairman took the Chair and Chairman left the table)*** Following some debate on the application Cllr Leadbetter proposed a recommendation of refusal on the grounds the proposed dwelling was on conservation land, on open space in front of the adjacent historic building and would have a detrimental effect on the dwellings below the site in question. The proposal would be better addressed by use/conversion of the buildings to be vacated by Plinth. Seconded Cllr Lacey.
Cllr Ms Payne put forward an amended proposal that the application was declined on the grounds that all options for the site were explored including change of use of the Plinth buildings and adjacent land would be a better option for housing development. Seconded Cllr Baker. The Chairman asked for votes for or against the amended proposal: 2 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions. Proposal not carried.
The Chairman asked for votes for or against the first proposal: 4 in favour, 4 against, the Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the proposal. Proposal carried.
(Chairman returned)
2. 4106/16 : The Old Forge, Mendlesham Road – erection of replacement fencing on north, east and western boundaries. Erection of replacement picket fencing including 2 gates. Cllr Leadbetter proposed a recommendation of approval, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred, 6 in favour, 2 abstentions.
3. 4615/16 : Field View, Wetherup Street – variation of condition 1 of planning permission 2999/10 for siting of caravan to permit extended occupancy. ***(Cllr Miss Canham left the table)***. Following debate of the application Cllr Lacey proposed a recommendation of refusal on the following grounds: The mobile home was situated immediately behind other residential dwellings and was not in the Wetherup Street building line. The mobile home was dilapidated and had not been used as a holiday let and therefore not complied with the existing condition that it should be removed within six months if not used. There were a number of misrepresentations and inaccuracies on the planning application form. Seconded Cllr Leadbetter, 6 in favour, 2 abstentions.
4. 4507/16 : Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of 1 two storey dwelling with detached double car port on land to rear of Wetheringsett House, sharing existing access. Following discussion of the application Cllr Leadbetter proposed a recommendation of refusal of the application on the following grounds: The site suffers from severe waterlogging and the proposed dwelling would add to the existing problem. The restrictions put in place when the neighbouring property, Wetheringsett Lodge was built, ie that any dwelling should be kept to single storey, should apply to this application. There was no provision for suitable screening.
A 5 bedroomed house was not modest in scale as claimed in the application and did not meet the requirement for local housing needs. Seconded Cllr Miss Canham, 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.

9. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. 0699/16 : Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of 2 two storey dwellings with car ports and new shared vehicular access. PP Refused.
2. 3605/16 : Land at Five Cross Ways, Deadmans Lane – variation of conditions. PP Granted.

10. Planning Correspondence – none.

11. Wetheringsett Village Hall report

Cllr Leadbetter reported a balance of nearly £650 in the reserves. Heaters had been repaired and invoice for the school rent sent. Curtains Up and the Yoga Group were using the hall on a regular basis. Recent events had included the Hackluyt reception and a successful bingo evening. Eastern Angles were due to perform on the 22 April next year. A quote of £400 had been given for repair of the rendering at the rear of the hall. This would be dealt with during the spring next year. The committee were taking precautions to deal with legionnaires testing by running the water taps and flushing the WC's as required.

12. New Village Hall report

Cllr Ms Payne reported confirmation had been received from Suffolk CC that everything was in place with the development agreement to enable the land to be released. It was explained the lottery funding application would go forward as a community project at this stage. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Ms Payne for all her work to ensure the development agreement was in place and for the production of the village calendar.

13. Proposed VAS speed awareness scheme

Technical details of the different types and cost of VAS equipment had been received from Suffolk CC Highways, ie size of screen, detail on screen and range. Cllr Harvey offered to look into the suitability of the different VAS for consideration at the next meeting. A small volunteer group would need to be set up to maintain and move the equipment as and when required, a minimum of two people would be required to move the equipment between locations.

14. Request for extension of speed limit – Station Road. Cllr Stringer pursuing.

15. Wetherup Street – report on excessive vehicle speed

Awaiting report on latest speed monitoring from Suffolk Constabulary.

16. Wetheringsett defibrillator

Cllr Baker was pleased to report the equipment had now been installed and ready for use. Cllr Baker was organising an Awareness Day in the village on 10 December to let parishioners know that the equipment was now operational. Other sessions would be held at a later date. On behalf of the parish the Chairman recorded huge thanks to Cllr Baker for his work on the project and bringing it to fruition. Cllr Baker added that after 4 years the parish council would be able to buy the equipment for £1.00 from Heartbeat Trust and that he would be very willing to remain as the parish council contact.

17. Play area report – deferred to next meeting

18. Proposed formal Wetheringsett footpath map – to be removed from Agenda for time being.

19. Wetheringsett Emergency Plan

Operation of the plan to be passed over to Cllr Alston.

20. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

Royal British Legion – Parish Council Wreath - £20.

Letters with details of the services offered and requesting an annual donation had been received from the East Anglian Air Ambulance and Suffolk Accident Rescue.

Cllr Baker proposed payments of the £20 for the Wreath and £100 each to the EAAA and SARS, Seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and agreed.

2. Accounts for Payment

Community Action Suffolk - website hosting	60.00
Clerk's sal/expenses Nov 2016	262.40
Calendar Printing Co. – Wetherngsett 2017 calendar	720.00
TR Mosely – new bus shelter – Hockey Hill	1956.00
K Goudy – Royal British Legion Wreath	20.00
EAAA – donation	100.00
SARS – donation	100.00

Cllr Ms Payne proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Baker and agreed.

3. Finance Report – draft proposals for precept 2017/18

Cllr Leadbetter produced draft precept calculations for 2017/18 totalling £8650 (copy calculations attached to Minutes). This represented an increase of 1.65% on last year (£8510 2016/17). Cllr Leadbetter went through the expenditure heads listed and allocations made and added the council was in a good position and able to cover any reasonably small deficit from reserves. Cllr Ms Payne queried whether there should be a new village hall allocation included in the figure to meet professional costs. Final agreement of the precept figure to be deferred to next meeting, in the meantime Cllr Leadbetter agreed to review the figures discussed.

21. Clerk's report/correspondence – none and no queries raised on items circulated since the last meeting.

22. Chairman's Urgent Business

The Chairman reported on an issued raised by a parishioner concerning HGV's using Joes Road and the damage caused to the road surface. It was suggested that County Highway's be asked to provide a 'Not Suitable for HGV' sign or 'Do not follow your Satnav here' sign.

23. To consider Twitter items

Defibrillator Awareness Day – 10 December

24. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Town Lane Haulage Site – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported on a notice in the local press concerning the Operators Licence for the site making application to allow an additional 10 lorries access to the site. It was queried why the Parish Council had not been informed of the application. It was reported there had been a noticeable increase in HGV presence in the village, many missing the turning into the site having to drive through the village to find their way back to it. It was agreed this query should be raised with Highways, highlighting concerns over the increased HGV presence in the village.

Thanks – The Chairman repeated his thanks to Cllr Baker for the huge amount of time and work he had carried out on behalf of the community during his time as a councillor and wished him well with his new career.

The Chairman also thanked Cllr Mrs Nickson for organizing the replacement bus shelter on Hockey Hill, this was a huge improvement.

25. **Date of next meeting – Monday 9 January 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed 9.40pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: